

FARM LABOR NEWS

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October, 1946

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New Local Organized In El Paso, Texas

A new local for the National Farm Labor Union has been organized in El Paso, Texas, by George F. Webber, President of the A.F. of L. Central Labor Union in that city.

The organization is known as the Transient Agricultural Workers Union and it was chartered by the American Federation of Labor as a federal labor union prior to the granting of the National Farm Labor Union's charter.

The Transient Agricultural Workers Union is composed of Spanish speaking Americans who live and work in the Rio Grande River Valley section of Texas. These workers are often called Mexicans, whereas most of them were born and reared in the United States, and their families have been here for many generations.

El Paso is one of the centers of migratory farm labor. Thousands of workers employed part time on the fruit, vegetable, and cotton farms of Texas, migrate each year to California and other western states following the crops. The wages paid in south Texas to farm laborers are much lower than in the mid-South. Hourly rates are reported to be 25¢ at this time.

These workers are victims of discrimination because they speak a language other than English and because of the fact that they also have darker skins than some whites. By custom they are often barred from public places just as American Negroes are.

Full information about this part of our Union will be given in the next issue of the Farm Labor News. Names of officers and charter members of the local will be printed.

A NUESTROS NUEVOS HERMANOS EN EL PASO, TEXAS:

El Nacional Union de Trabajadores Agriculturas (A.F. of L.) da saluciones a los miembros en El Paso. Vayan ustedes siempre con Dios y El Union!

El Presidente Mitchell vendra a verles en el mes de Noviembre.

Georgia Planter Jailed On Peonage Charge

Roswell P. Biggers of Near Conyers, Ga., was arrested last month by the F.B.I. on a charge of peonage. The F.B.I. charges that Biggers who owns a 1,000 acre plantation, secured the release of 5 Negro farm laborers from jail and held them in peonage for several months. According to reports, this is the second time that Biggers had been arrested for holding farm laborers in peonage.

New Locals

The following new locals were chartered during the month of September: Lehi, Ark.—Organized by Taylor and Betton.

New Hebron, Forrest City, Ark.—Organized by Roy Clay and Taylor.

Doddsville, Miss. This is the second local here. It was organized by M. B. Blair.

New Town, Pine Bluff, Ark.—Organized by Albert Lyas. This is the second local in Pine Bluff.

A.F. Of L. Leaders



Two of the top A.F. of L. leaders, President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, and Vice President F. R. Betton of the A.F. of L. are shown discussing the Convention to be held in October 7th. NFLU will be represented for the first time.

A.F. Of L. Defeats CIO In California; Betton Aids In Victory

On August 29th and 30th, the A.F. of L. Cannery Workers Union in California defeated the FTA-CIO in the biggest election ever held by the National Labor Relations Board west of the Mississippi River. The vote was 16,262 for A.F. of L. to 14,896 for FTA-CIO. There were 2,056 votes challenged. It was pointed out that the A.F. of L. needs only 683 of the votes for a clear majority and the FTA-CIO would need 2,049 in order to win.

An important factor in turning the tide of the A.F. of L. was the work of Vice President F. R. Betton of the National Farm Labor Union, who was called to California during the last week of August to tell the cannery workers of the treatment our members received from the FTA-CIO officials on the East coast this summer.

Vice President Betton also told the cannery workers about the attempts by Donald Henderson, Communist chief of the FTA, to take over, rule and ruin STFU eight years ago. Betton reported that the Rev. Claude Williams, expelled for an attempt to sell the Union out to the Central Committee of the CPUS for \$500 in 1938, had also been in California working for his boss, Henderson. None of Henderson's cohorts appeared on the scene in the final days of the campaign preceding the election.

Delegates To A.F. Of L. Chicago Convention

President H. L. Mitchell, Vice President F. R. Betton, and Organization Director Barney B. Taylor, were named by the National Executive Council, meeting September 14th., in Memphis, as the National Farm Labor Union delegates to attend the 65th., Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor. The A.F. of L. Convention will meet in Chicago on October 7th. and will last ten days or two weeks.

J. E. Clayton and A. E. Cox were named as alternates for the delegates.

President Green Against Wage Ceiling On Cotton Picking

In a telegram addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton P. Anderson, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, demanded that the Department of Agriculture revoke the wage ceiling on cotton pickers in the Delta counties of the state of Mississippi.

Following the dispatch of this telegram, a conference was arranged in Washington with the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Charles Brannon. Mr. Roland Watts, an attorney, represented the National Farm Labor Union, and Mr. Herbert Thatcher represented the legal staff of the American Federation of Labor. The lawyers urged the Department to revoke the ceiling in Mississippi on the grounds that it is grossly unfair and pointed out that no wage ceiling had been set in nearby Arkansas and Missouri.

No decision was reached and plans are now under way to file a suit in the U. S. courts and challenge the law under which the Department of Agriculture is authorized to set wages of farm laborers upon the demand of employers of such labor.

The Preacher And The Tramp

A tramp walked up to a group of preachers attending a big convention and asked for a hand out. "No," one of them told him, "I'm afraid that we can't help you, but see that big man over there, that is Rev. Jones, you ought to try him." The tramp then went over to see Rev. Jones who had been pointed out to him. The others stood watching. They saw a surprised look in the tramp's face as the big preacher talked fast. Then something passed from hand to hand and the tramp started to slink away. One of the other preachers called him and asked, "Well, did Rev. Jones give you something?" The tramp grinned. "Naw," he said, "I gave him half a dollar for his new church."

Union Wants \$4.00 Per 100 To Pick Cotton

A campaign to raise wages of cotton pickers to \$4.00 per 100 lbs. is under way in the mid-South. Thousands of handbills calling upon workers to stay out of the fields until the Union wage is paid, were distributed throughout the delta plantation areas of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri, prior to October 1st.

Memphis Pickers Organize

A drive to organize Memphis cotton pickers got under way October 2nd. Vice President F. R. Betton and Organization Director Barney B. Taylor are in charge of the Memphis campaign. The first meeting was held at the Beale Ave. Baptist Church on Wednesday night with hundreds of workers in attendance.

Mexican Workers

Want \$4.00 Per 100

Thousands of American citizens from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas who were brought in by the Agricultural Extension Service to help pick the 1946 cotton crop in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri, are also being called upon to join the Union and fight for the \$4 per 100 wage. A special handbill printed in Spanish is being distributed among them. These workers are called Mexicans but they are mostly from Texas and prefer to be called Latin Americans. It is reported that these workers were recruited and transported to the mid-South on false promises of high wages. Upon arrival they found the planters paying a wage of \$2.00 to \$2.50 per 100.

Committee Sets Union Wage

Early in the cotton picking season, 160 delegates representing 84 local Unions and 30,000 members of the National Farm Labor Union, met in Memphis to set a wage scale. A survey was made of the delegates present and the majority voted for a wage of \$4 per 100 lbs. to be set. They elected a Wage Committee and directed that the Committee start a campaign to enforce the Union's demand, and to organize both the Memphis pickers and the imported Mexican workers.

Offer To Bargain With Planters Rejected

Prior to the meeting of the delegates, H. L. Mitchell, President of the Union, and Barney B. Taylor, Organization Director, addressed a telegram to the Board of the Delta Council, a planters' organization meeting in Greenville, Miss., and offered to meet a planters' committee to set a wage for picking, and work out a system of hiring cotton pickers through the Union. Mr. Irby Turner, President of the Delta Council, replied. He claimed that his organization could not bargain for its members.

Got A Headache

A doctor was driving down a country road in Arkansas when he heard a woman's voice calling, "O doctor, please stop by my house. My husband is sick. It's his head. He'd had it off and on all day. Right now he is sitting on the porch holding it between his hands and knees."

N. Y. Visitor Praises Union

Miss Anna Caples, who represents the National Sharecroppers Fund that has been helping our Union, came down to visit with us last month from New York City.

After attending our Cotton Picking Conference in Memphis, Miss Caples went with Capt. and Mrs. Taylor to southeast Missouri, where she visited meetings of the Union locals at Lilbourn and East Prairie. Rev. Arthur Churchill was the host at Lilbourn and Rev. David Burgess at East Prairie.

Returning to Memphis, Miss Caples went with Vice President Betton, Capt. Taylor, and J. E. Clayton to Cotton Plant, Ark., where the first meeting of a new local in the Dark Corners community was held.

"I think you are doing a wonderful work," Miss Caples said as she left to return to New York, "and I hope that many of your other friends will be able to come down and see for themselves how well the Union is doing."

Ark. Committee Seeks Freedom For Union Man

An Arkansas committee under the chairmanship of Rev. Sam Freeman, Pastor of the Pulaski Heights Christian Church in Little Rock, has taken over the campaign to free Tee Davis, Union member of Edmondson, Ark., who is serving a ten year sentence for the crime of defending his home against an intruder. This intruder turned out to be a plantation deputy sheriff.

Early last spring, an application was made to the governor of Arkansas for a parole. According to reports, it was denied because the governor and other officials resented letters that were sent to them by out of state people.

Mae Pearl Kelly, member of the Union's Executive Council who is stationed at Gould, Ark., is active in the campaign and is getting up a petition to be signed by Arkansas citizens asking reconsideration of the pardon by Governor Laney.

Cotton Company Buys 65,000 Acre Farm

The Anderson-Clayton Cotton Co., world's largest cotton buyers, has recently bought a 65,000 acre cotton farm near Medota, California. They paid \$7,000,000 for this little piece of cotton land. W. L. Clayton, one of the members of the firm, is now Assistant Secretary of State in President Truman's Cabinet.

This 65,000 acre tract would make 16,000 small farms of 40 acres; 8,000 small farms of 80 acres each; and 4,000 farms of 160 acres.

The Record

Paid up membership in the American Federation of Labor has reached an all time peak of 7,123,488, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany reported in September.

There are a million and a half A.F. of L. members organized in the Southern states. A half million are Negro workers. There are now more Negro workers who belong to A.F. of L. unions than there are both Negro and white members claimed by the rival C.I.O. in the Southern states.

Illinois Farmer Fined In Arkansas For Enticing Labor

Charles Newby of Ridge Farms, Ill., tomato grower, and a truck driver, Raymond Ingram, were arrested and fined \$50 and costs in Blytheville, Ark., Saturday, September 21, for "enticing labor out of the state." The Blytheville police arrested the men after they had secured 23 workers who were ready to leave for Illinois to pick tomatoes for two weeks.

Newby's brother, Noble Newby, was in Memphis the same day and came to the Union office looking for men to complete the harvest of the tomato crop at Ridge Farms. Newby was informed that if he made an effort to recruit workers in Arkansas or Mississippi, he would likely be arrested for violating the anti-labor recruiting law.

The enticing labor law is clearly unconstitutional. Years ago, organizers for the STFU were regularly arrested for "enticing labor" during organizing campaigns. The Union refused to pay such fines and always appealed the cases to higher courts. Upon appeals being filed in higher courts, the cases were always thrown out and no test could be made of the constitutionality of the law.

Betton Hustles

It rained out a meeting Monday night. It rained again Tuesday night—and another meeting was cancelled. But hustling Vice-President Betton, who doesn't believe in wasting time or travel, didn't let the weather stop him. He pulled on a pair of gum boots and started walking from house to house in the Cotton Plant, Ark., area.

For two days, Mr. Betton talked Union to the folks. And at the end of those two days, he had signed up 52 more families in the Union!

This story goes to prove that small organizing committee, set up in each local, and working from house to house of the non-Union people, can really do the job of organizing. Capt. Taylor has asked that each local select two or three of its best members to go and talk to folks who have not joined yet. They will tell the Union's story and, like our Vice-President, they will get plenty of new members.

'Union Last Hope'

A Letter Printed In Commercial Appeal, To The Commercial Appeal:

I am just a sharecropper, but would like to say a few words about Oscar Johnston U.S.D.A. wage ceiling board. The sharecropper of the Delta makes a very small cotton crop. The landlord takes and sells it, so the sharecropper has to pick out by the hundred, for the landlord, to buy food and clothing for his family. No landlord would put up enough money for a family to make a crop if he didn't day work and pick cotton for the landlord. Oscar Johnston of the Delta Pine Land Co. is taking the bread out of little children's mouths. We have worked when there was a war and have tried to stay out of the union, but it looks like our last straw. Tenant labor in the Delta is not allowed to vote on the wage referendum and never have been.

If a wage ceiling is put on cotton this year, look for more labor to leave the farm. When Oscar Johnston says he's protected tenant labor, he forgets.

E. H.

Tutwiler, Miss.

How Cotton Buyers Rob Tenants On Grade And Staple

By JOHN R. WEBSTER
Glen Allen, Mo.

The present price of cotton quoted at around 35¢ a pound is based on 15-16th. staple. Staple from above an inch would run up as high as 40 to 50 cents.

Most cotton raised in the Delta lands will pull from 1-1/4. to 1-3-16th. But it will be hard to find these quotations in detail, or to get it pulled to show the real staple.

The reason for this is that the buyers plan to buy long staple cotton at short staple prices, and horn the grower clear away from long staple prices. They plan to make from 20 to 40 dollars a bale on staple alone.

A buyer will deliberately, right before your eyes, pull long staple into short staple by breaking the fiber and pinching it off with his thumb nail.

A few years ago at Blytheville, Ark., this writer had a controversy with a cotton buyer over the grade of a bale of cotton which easily pulled 1-1-18th. He gave me 1 inch. I called for a government licensed inspector. I found one in Blytheville but he would not grade it for me on the ground that the request would have to come through a gin man of a cotton buyer. Finally, the buyer told me that he would get the licensed inspector's grade, but that he would have to send it to Memphis—which he did—and I lost my claim on the grade, as the inspector bore him out (certainly). I hadn't the chance of a show. Being unable to travel out, I had the buyer to come up to my house and we pulled cotton together. He must have known he was wrong for it was easy to see that he was breaking the staple and pinching it off (skin game).

It is my opinion that the large planter is protecting himself along this line but it is the small and uninformed grower—tenant—who is getting stung. There should be the protection of government licensed graders free from the influence of the buyers.

Arkansas Poll Taxes Must Be Paid Next Year For 1948 Voting

All members of the Union residing in Arkansas are notified that if they expect to vote in the primary and general elections in 1948, they must assess their personal property and pay their poll taxes for the year 1947. Poll taxes can be paid at the courthouse any time between January 1st., and October 1st., 1947. Every man and woman over 21 years of age is expected by the Union to qualify to vote, and all are urged to set aside \$1 each and pay their poll taxes soon after January 1st next year.

A member of a family may assess the property taxes and pay the poll taxes of another member of the same family. Also, a member of a family may authorize an agent to assess and pay poll taxes for himself and other members of his immediate family.

Million Veterans Now On Farms

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, states that on July 1st., there were 1,045,000 ex-servicemen employed on the nation's farms. Of this number, 332,000 are hired wage hands.

In the Southern states, less than 20 per cent of the returned soldiers and sailors are wage hands, whereas about one third of all ex-servicemen are wage workers in other sections of the United States.

Farm And Cannery Workers Return From New Jersey

About 1,500 members of the National Farm Labor Union have returned to the mid-South after working in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, during the tomato season. Most of the workers were employed in canneries, however, a large number were employed on farms under Union contract.

Uearl Haywood, President of the Carraway Local, and his crew of eight men and women were among the first to return. They reported that their net earnings for the six weeks work picking tomatoes was \$220 per worker. Haywood's crew made nearly \$500 each during the asparagus cutting season, April, May, and June. They worked for Luther Durham, a small farmer near Bridgeton, N. J. Durham gave Haywood a letter of appreciation for the help the workers gave during both tomato and asparagus season. Mr. Durham's letter said, "They were a fine group of earnest, honest, and dependable people and it was a pleasure to work with them."

The H. J. Heinz Co., officials at Salem report that they were well pleased with the 200 workers they employed. A. W. Colen, Secretary of Local 190, near Pine Bluff, accompanied the group to the Heinz Co. plant. Colen and 20 of the workers transferred to the Seabrook Farms near bridgeton after the tomato season ended.

How To Get Your Copy Of Farm Labor News

The FARM LABOR NEWS is being sent to all paid up members of the Union. Any paid up member who is not receiving the FARM LABOR NEWS each month, should write to the office giving his name and full address. Non-members who want to get the FARM LABOR NEWS must subscribe. The rate is 25¢ a year. Stamps, money orders, or cash may be sent to the FARM LABOR NEWS, Box 443, Memphis 1, Tennessee. Tell us the place where you get your mail. Give route number, box number, town, and state.

Cotton Crop Short Price Up High

A nine million bale cotton crop is forecast for 1946 as picking gets underway throughout the South. The normal yield is 12 million bales. Texas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi crops are off by thousands of bales. However, Arkansas and Missouri cotton is reported to be better than last year.

The price is around 36¢ per pound, whereas, last year it averaged less than 25¢ a pound. Cotton seed prices are also higher. The big cotton planters are getting rich wherever the crops are good.

Twist Local No. 2

A new local has been organized on the Twist Plantation by Douglas Cobbs, volunteer organizer. Rev. W. M. Wilkerson is President and Lewis Thompson is Secretary-Treasurer. All of the members are shareholders in the Twist Co-operative Leasing Association. The first meeting held by the local attracted over 300 people.

Our Guest Column—

The Klan
And America

(American Press Association)
By ROBERT W. KENNY
Attorney General Of California

Recently there was a report in one of our local newspapers of a statement by Congressman Rankin. His usual remarks are so wild, his political position so well-known, that thoughtful citizens have gotten into the habit of saying: This vicious, reactionary representative of a handful of voters is just blowing his top again. It's just the same old loud and stupid noise from the ranks of the enemy. But not long ago, Congressman Rankin made a very important, very profound remark.

He was talking about the Ku Klux Klan. He was talking about the possibility of the House Un-American Committee investigating the activities of the Klan. And Mr. Rankin said: "After all, the Klan is a completely American institution and its members are Americans. That's not what this committee was set up to study. Our job is to investigate foreign isms and alien organizations."

Congressman Rankin spoke the truth in part. The Ku Klux Klan is an American organization. It has a history in American life. The National Socialist Party in Germany was a German organization. The German people discovered how large a role it was to play in their history. We, here in America, found out how immense a role it was to play in our lives, too.

I do not think that we here in America can ignore the fact that the Ku Klux Klan is part of our nation today. It is the spearhead of the most depraved, the most vicious and violent force in American life. It is the spearhead of reaction and fascism.

We cannot afford to blind ourselves to the state of our nation. We cannot close our eyes and treat the Klan as an organization of maniacs and fools dedicated to senseless acts of violence and terror.

The Klan with its history of violence against the Negro people; the Klan with its record of anti-semitism; the Klan with its role of anti-democratic activity has been selected to provide the action front for fascism in America. And today, money and brains are being poured into this organization and other little groups, such as those led by Gerald L. K. Smith, in order to weld together every possible organizational form of anti-democratic action in the coming battle for democratic survival.

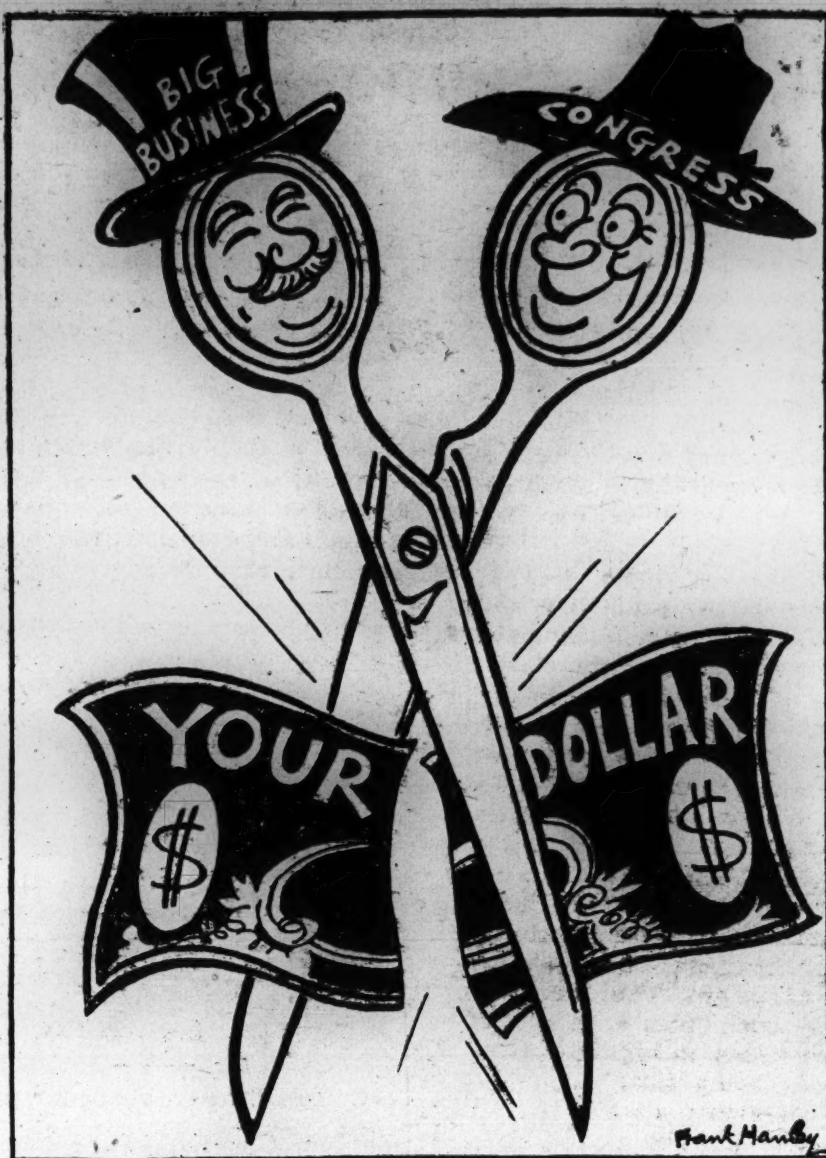
Those of us who recognize the present struggle going on in America must organize at once, must gather our forces, must enlist the aid of the majority of Americans and smash this front organization of fascism before it is too late.

We Still Pay To Vote

Attempts by organized labor, including the National Farm Labor Union, to abolish the poll tax, have again failed—at least for this last session of Congress.

Nineteen of the twenty six votes in the Senate against the interests of the people were cast by Southern senators. Spokesmen for the Union have said time and again that our congressmen do not represent the poor people of the South—and their votes prove it.

The Union will keep on fighting for the right of our people to vote without having to pay for that right.



Poor folks don't need much—let's snip her in two again!

Why Do Some Farm Tenants Stay
On Year After Year?

There are some farms on which tenants will stay year after year. On others, tenants leave every year. What makes the difference?

The C. J. Fickling farm near Blackville, S. C., is one of those on which tenants stay for a long time. Dr. M. C. Rochester, Clemson College extension farm management specialist made a study of the Fickling farm.

Six of the 12 tenant families have been on the farm more than 30 years. The others seven to 20 years. Owners of large farms can profit by following these policies which have been successful on the Fickling farm—

1. Ample land for cash crops—cotton, cucumbers, cantaloupes, watermelons.
2. Production of wheat for flour, grown on an allotted acreage in return for production of an equivalent amount of corn.
3. Each cropper family to keep a milk cow, a few hogs, and a few chickens, each selling a yearling and a few hogs every year.
4. Ample food products from gardens, truck patches, sweet potatoes, etc.
5. Electricity provided for tenant houses.
6. Opportunity for employment on the farm on a wage basis during the time they are not busy with their own crops.

The opportunity for croppers to make their own money for living expenses. Generally, the cucumbers and cantaloupes provide enough money for "running expenses," so that, when the cotton is harvested, they do not owe money on it.

Under an arrangement with certain croppers, their cotton crop is planted and cultivated with tractor equipment for a flat sum per acre. This allows croppers to devote their full time to their cotton, cucumbers, cantaloupes, and watermelons. Thus, each cropper can have a proportionately larger acreage of cash crops.

There used to appear in the catalogue of a mail order house a picture of a pair of corduroy trousers.

Year after year the picture appeared, together with the description of the pants—and the price, \$3. In the twenty-fifth year of the ad the company received this letter:

"Dear Friend: The more I been seeing them corduroy breeches, the more I get to wantin' them. If you ain't sold them yet, let me know, and I will buy them."—Selected.

He: "If I had a million dollars, do you know where I'd be?"

She: "I'd say! You'd be on OUR honeymoon!"

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Is
Doing
For
Its
Members

Big Crowds At September Meetings

Union mass meeting continued to attract big crowds during September, as enthusiasm over the success of the Union's organizing campaign mounted. Everywhere union members gathered the chief topic was the affiliation of our Union with the American Federation of Labor, and Union speakers emphasized its importance to the future of the NFLU.

The Shady Grove Local, near Forrest City and home local of President Mitchell, sponsored the first meeting of the month. Captain Taylor spoke to a crowd of over 100 members. Rev. T. B. Burgens, Local President, presided.

On the second Sunday, Organizer Roy Clay arranged a revival "of an old local in the New Hebron community, also near Forrest City. After Captain Taylor had spoken to a packed house, the local was set up by Organizer Clay and a charter application sent to the national office.

The newly chartered Fellowship Local of the Dark Corners community, near Cotton Plant, was the scene of the month's third meeting. Although the crowd was held down by rain, a considerable number plowed through the mud to hear Vice-President Betton, Rev. J. E. Clayton and Capt. Taylor. The crowd was helped considerably by the attendance of the seven strong sons of Local President Huston Tyler. Central Arkansas District President, J. W. Stewart presided, and Willie Betton, son of the Vice-President and local school principal, led some very fine singing. Miss Anna Caples of New York was a guest at this meeting.

Vice-President Betton and Taylor attended the monthly meeting of the Delta District Council in Gould, Ark., on the 21st, where plans for extending the Union down into Louisiana were made. Rev. B. J. Bennett reported the addition of another Mississippi local to the Delta Council. Rev. C. H. Bolden, Council President, presided.

On the following Sunday, a meeting was held by still another new local in Pine Bluff which had been organized by Organizer Albert Lyas. Lyas presided, and Betton and Taylor spoke on plans for getting year round employment for Union members. This local, the second one organized in Pine Bluff, is composed entirely of wage hands.

A "double-header" wound up the month's activity. After addressing a big crowd in the Union Hall in Forrest City, arranged by Organizer Clay and presided over by Local President Millard F. Rogers. Captain Taylor went to nearby Dansby, where St. Francis County Organizer Jim Sisk had another good crowd ready for "revival" services.

Captain Taylor estimates that the crowds totalled over 2,000 during September.

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'TOBACCO ROAD' IN NORTH Tenantry Blamed For Loss Of 50,000 Keystone Farms

When a writer sets out to picture deplorable farm conditions, he usually picks on the South as the scene of his story. "Tobacco Road" is supposed to be a sample of what tenantry does to its victims.

How closely the miserable "Jeeter Lester" of that novel fitted the plight of rural Pennsylvania tenants is revealed by a shocking report of the state's Department of Agriculture.

It discloses that since 1910 more than 50,000 farms have disappeared—as farms. Nearly 4,000,000 acres have been abandoned to weeds, the crows and the tax collector.

The immediate cause of the farm-abandonment is declared to be soil depletion, and that is traced directly to farm tenancy, which is said to be more extensive in the Keystone state than in any of the other Northeastern commonwealths.

Landlords rent farms and buildings to tenants for a half share of the cash grain crops and dictate what crops shall be planted. Naturally, they select crops from which the largest income can be obtained, and it is these crops that play havoc with the fertility of the soil.

Some tenants are not permitted to have cows or other livestock, a necessary source of organic fertilizer.

Fortunes are said to have been built up by this system of looting the soil and the tenant. One landlord in the southeastern part of the state owned about 110 farms totaling 14,000 acres, and died recently a multi-millionaire. (Reprinted From "Labor")

Demands U. S. Stop Lynchings

Voicing the horror of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at Georgia atrocity in which four Negroes were murdered, Supreme Court Justice Meir Steinbrink, chairman of the Board of Directors of the League's Eastern Region, today warmly commended the statement by President Truman denouncing the lynch outrage and calling for prompt apprehension of the guilty. The Presidential statement, released by Attorney General Tom Clark, was welcomed by the New York Jurist as concrete affirmation of the American principle of democratic justice.

Judge Steinbrink, speaking for the League, pointed out that no American dare remain complacent in the face of such brutal racist attacks. For an attack upon any minority group, he emphasized, constitutes a blow against the entire democratic community. As long as one minority is endangered, the Anti-Defamation League official declared, the rights and lives of all minorities are threatened.

Judge Steinbrink further expressed the hope that, in accord with the Presidential pronouncement, immediate measures will be taken to secure justice in Georgia.

A. F. Of L. Defends Negro Members From Klan

George Dudley, a Negro worker at Gordon, Georgia, joined the United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers Union, A. F. of L. Dudley was a good union man and when the company he worked for tried to force all of its employees to resign from the union, Dudley stood firm. Late one night while George Dudley was at work, four masked men with pistols in their hands appeared and carried him away. He was beaten and told that he was being beaten and would be killed if he did not get out of the union. They also threatened to get the union organizer.

President William Green and Southern Director, George Googe, at once called on the Department of Justice and the Governor of Georgia to protect their members. An investigation is under way and although the Ku Klux Klan officials deny that they were responsible, it is likely that several klansmen will be convicted for beating this man.

In the meantime, the A. F. of L. union won the election and no other union men have been attacked in that part of Georgia.

THE FOUR FREEDOMS FUND

Have you made your payment to the Four Freedoms Fund?

The Union is getting ready to send a big delegation to Washington early next year. A lot of money will be needed to put that program over. Every dollar a reader of the Farm Labor News gives during the next six months will be used to make the Farm Labor Conference in Washington a great success. Let us hear from you. Fill out the blank below and send it in at once.

FOUR FREEDOMS FUND

I WILL GIVE \$_____ now to the Four Freedoms Fund, and I will give

\$_____ more to the Four Freedoms Fund by _____ 194_____

My name is _____

I get my mail at _____ ROUTE BOX _____ TOWN _____ STATE _____

I am a member of _____ Local No. _____

I am not a member, but I want to help. () Check ☒ X.

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO NATIONAL FARM LABOR UNION, BOX 443, MEMPHIS 1, TENN.

Can A Few Mexicans Pick It All, Mr. Gates?

A fellow down at Little Rock, name of Gates or Bates or something like that, has been carelessly throwing around some mighty big figures about the number of Mexican cotton pickers in Arkansas.

Now this man Gates (or Bates) seems to be some kind of riding boss for the Farm Bureau, although the Farm Labor News is reliably informed that he draws pay from the Department of Agriculture. So it's natural for him to try and make folks believe that Mexicans are swarming into Arkansas by the thousands, and that our own people had better hurry up and go pick cotton for two-bits a hundred before all these Mexicans get it all picked out.

We have looked from one end of Arkansas to the other and, while there are a few hundred here and there, there are not enough to make a good dent in the cotton crop. Wonder what this hired hand of the "Exclusion" Service would tell his masters in the Farm Bureau if all the Arkansas hands decided to stay home and let the Mexicans pick it all?

One more thing, Mr. Gates: How much are the Mexicans workers being paid per hundred? We have the feeling that they are being skinned on the price. We KNOW we are!

New Service For Union Veterans

Union members who are veterans are invited to bring their problems to Captain Taylor. He has been helping many veterans since coming to the Union, and has now been officially appointed Veterans Advisor by President H. L. Mitchell. Capt. Taylor will do this work in addition to his duties as Organization Director. Veterans needing help should write full details to the National Office.

Special Fares For Delegates To Union Convention

Arrangements have been made with one of the bus companies to transport all delegates to the Union's 13th. Annual Convention in Washington, D. C. next January. The round trip fare to and from Memphis and Washington will be \$25 for each person. All locals have been notified and urged to begin raising money to send a big delegation to the Convention early in January. Any member wanting to attend the Convention will be welcome even if he has not been elected as a delegate from a local.

THEIR SONG I SING

By COVINGTON HALL
("Covami")

I sing the song of those who march in Freedom's endless war,
Who hold aloft the banner and who keep ablaze her star;
Who, whoever hopeless lost, or futile seem her fight,
Still answer to her battle call faint-ringing thru the night;
Who, tho their swords be broken, and tho their strength bespent,
Refuse to stay the struggle and with bribings be content;
Who hold her 'leagu'd fortress' 'gainst the myrmidons of wrong,
Who live alone for Liberty and, dying, chant her song.